

Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners

Garden City Inn

2100 McPhillips Street, Winnipeg

September 15, 2015

MINUTES

Present: Dave Crabb, Pat Dunlop, Cathie Zarfes, Tom Thorsteinson, ,
Jim Nicholson, Larry Baker, Norma Kerr, Jim Neufeld, Ray Poole
Guest: Mark Sabourin, Investors Group

Regrets: Ken Corbett, Mo Tipples

Chair: Dave Crabb

Recording Secretary: Shelley Morris

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Dave asked to add Motion re: Banking - cheque to Ekos Communications (film project for Wetlands in MB).

It was moved by Pat and seconded by Cathie that the agenda be adopted as amended.
CARRIED

3. Mark Sabourin – financial planner at Investors – noted that on Oct 7 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a seminar at Fort Whyte on Succession Planning for Cottage Owners – could have huge financial impact if proper planning processes aren't in place. Issues such as joint ownership, gifting, selling and the tax ramifications will be covered. A legal adviser will also be in attendance to speak to wills. The principle residence exemption will be discussed and how to minimize capital gains. Cathie asked if there are any minimums on residency requirements – this will be covered by the lawyer at the seminar.

4. **Adoption of Minutes of August, 2015**

A revised version of the minutes was circulated which includes the names of the approved signing officers, as required by the bank.

It was moved by Pat and seconded by Norma that the August minutes be adopted.
CARRIED

Dave, Jim and Norma are the signing officers listed at the bank. Norma will be removed and Larry is added

5. Financial Report – August, 2015

a. *Approval of Financial Report.

A small amount of interest was earned. Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium cashed cheques as did CTF for membership. \$10,939 is balance at end of August.

Jim Nicholson moved and Jim Neufeld seconded that the financial report to August 31, 2015 be accepted. CARRIED

b. *Receipts from members for purchases – post office box paid by Pat

c. *Banking - Jim circulated some ideas on banking options for Board's consideration.

d. *Update on Grant – Pat received logo to add to website to acknowledge grant from Lotteries. This item will be kept on the agenda.

e. Wetland Matters! – the \$100 approved at last meeting will be paid direct rather than through GoFundMe.

6. Standing Items

a. Membership

Pat listed the memberships that have come in and will confirm contact information. Pat had tried to get information on insurance for Duck Mountain. We would like to know how many have insurance under MACO.

b. *Cottager Magazine – next article due first week of October, will include information on AGM, how the grant is being used and the benefits to members, new articles on website.

c. *Facebook – Norma referred to the CPAWS Facebook site with use of petitions and wondered if MACO could do something similar.

d. *Website - \$1500 is the quote/invoice for website revamping – Dave will circulate. Ray asked question about website costs and in response it was explained that it's a new site, new language so more than simply updating. It was moved by Cathie and seconded by Tom that Board approve MACO spending up to \$1500 for construction of new website. CARRIED

The website will be released gradually.

Dave asked Board members to send photos of cottage country for the website. Pat reported on meeting re: website and potential information that could be included e.g. sample by-laws that could be used by local cottage associations.

- i. **-Approval of Advisory Articles for Website** – Jim Neufeld has done a lot of work on advisory articles which he thought should be updated for the new website. He was pleased with the feedback from the Board. Jim Nicholson made some further suggestions on additional articles which will be accommodated.

It was moved by Jim Neufeld and seconded by Jim Nicholson that the new advisory articles for health and safety be approved for posting on the website. CARRIED

- ii. **-New Advisory Articles – Health & Safety** – include on agenda going forward as required.
- iii. Information on length of time advertisements are in for costs advertised. Question of how much to advertise in Cottager vs our website. If a corporation is a member, they can advertise on our website for free all year under MACO constitution. With that in mind, letter was prepared and presented at a previous meeting. The letter would need to be condensed. Cottager charges \$375 for business card ad for 5 issues per year.

It was moved by Norma and seconded by Tom that MACO solicit for corporate membership. CARRIED

Norma will email the draft letter to everyone and invite suggestions. In terms of prospects, email can be sent to those whose cards have been collected. Companies that advertise in Cottager should be targeted. Start with email to avoid costs of postage.

If we get response, we could have special section on website for sponsors. Or could have a rotating section that takes one through all the business card type ad postings.

Dave will approach Investors about corporate membership and offer to post the information re: seminar on MACO website.

- e. ***Education Tax Issue:** STOP Project - Larry reported on discussions with local areas on MACO initiatives and noted he had given a presentation on taxation issues and inequalities. (Cost of \$97 for printing 30 copies of 30 page document.) Copies have been sent to Brian Pallister and his staff and local MLA. It was suggested that Larry's articles could be posted on the MACO website. Larry reviewed the article and discussion ensued on data on teachers' salaries. The legislature opens on October 20th, immediately following the federal election. For a rally to go ahead, speakers would need to be confirmed e.g. CFIB, CTF, Real estate board etc.
- f. ***Lake Manitoba** – the lake is down – around 812.3, within the operating range. There will be an Assiniboine Basin meeting in Oct or Nov that Larry plans to attend.
- g. ***Advertising** - fee rates – have they been clarified? Corporate rate is \$300. Table to another meeting. Goal is to have the rates on the website.
- h. ***AGM** – Speaker and place confirmed – Nov 3 at CanadInns. Notice of meeting should be sent to membership. The close to 50 cottage associations can be asked to circulate it to their memberships OR send their rosters to MACO so that information can be sent direct to the members. Dave will prepare a powerpoint association.

Nominating slate needs to be confirmed. Question re: which positions are up for election. Up this year are Treasurer, VP, Secretary for one year term, as well as replacements for Tom and Cathie and Marion (1 year term). Pat's term is up and she will stay on. Last year, the following were elected: Dave (President), secretary (vacant), Jim Neufeld, Larry Baker (VP), Ken, Ray and Marion for 2 years.

Approaches have been made for candidates but it is difficult to find volunteers. Norma asked if meeting every 2nd month would help attract people.

7. Business and Action Items Arising From Minutes

- a. ***Tax Rally** – (Larry)

- b. *MACO on Escalating fees in Provincial Parks – Policy Paper (Dave)

8. New Business

- a. *Design Expo Show – Oct 23-25, 2015 at Red River Ex
 - i. Schedule –It is critical to sell memberships and collect email addresses at these events or the value of participating is questionable. Names for the petitions are collected at the event.
 - ii. Booth items and handouts – need receipt book, pamphlet, tax information
- b. Provincial Park Management – Ray raised concern about inadequate upkeep within Oak Lake provincial park – services are not consistent with fees being paid. Many things have been disconnected, maintenance has been minimum, staffing is inadequate. He asked if anyone else is seeing provincial park problems. Dave questioned why they would not contract to someone local to provide the service.

9. Correspondence Received/Responded to:

- a. *Community Information – Volunteer Manitoba - form requesting information on office hours.
- b. *Fire Smart and Wildfire Prevention Program – asked to send to our members an email regarding their informational program. Info will be posted on the website
- c. Assiniboine credit union – notice of meeting on Sept 21st at Convention Centre, special meeting of members for voting on merger.

10. Next Meeting Dates are Tuesdays:

Next meeting dates are: Nov. 17th, AGM (Nov 3rd)

It was moved by Ray and seconded by Norma that no meeting be held in October. CARRIED

It was moved by Norma and seconded by Larry that a meeting be held on Nov 17th and that 2016 meetings be posted on the website on the regular 3rd Tuesday. CARRIED

11. Adjournment

It was moved by Ray and seconded by Pat that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 p.m. CARRIED

Task	Assigned to:	Deadline
Track grant monies and associated expenditures	Jim	ongoing
Cottager magazine –Article due dates first week of October. Submit ideas to Cathie	Cathie	
Circulate website quote	Dave	
Send in photos of cottage country for website	all	
Circulate draft letter re: corporate membership	Norma	asap
Invite Investors to take out corporate membership	Dave	asap
Speakers for tax rally and confirm if it is going ahead	Larry	asap
AGM tasks - nominating slate, send notice to membership		
Replacement for Marion on membership	Jim/Dave	